

DVCC Treatment Committee
March 11, 2015
10:00 a.m., Middletown Police Department

In attendance: Blanch Creech (People's Place), Kerry Ferriter (PDO), Maureen Monagle (CJC), Brendon O'Neill (PDO), Natasha Smith (DVCC), Aimee String (DVCC), Ellie Torres (DVCC) and Ruth Yeboah (Dover AFB)

The Meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM and Introductions were made.

- I. Minutes from 12/10/14 were amended and approved
- II. Old Business
 - A. Update: Training for the Courts on DV Treatment Programs
 - i. This item is on hold pending further discussion of evaluation of existing treatment programs.
 - B. Update: Treatment Providers Access to DV Criminal History
 - Ruth and Blanche noted that Treatment Providers have been trained on DELJIS but do not yet have access. There are still some logistical issues regarding distribution of the information. Aimee will reach out to Melissa Kearney to see if she has anything to add to the update. Melissa taking lead on coordination.
 - Post meeting update: Melissa Kearney was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following update via e-mail after the meeting:
 - The DV programs are NOT going to have direct access to DV Criminal Conviction Records. They will get the access through the Probation and Parole referral process; and this information will only include CONVICTIONS.
 - All of the certified program staff needing access went through DELJIS security training as required. DELJIS created a DV Hope Project inquiry for probation officers to access the information allowed for the DV providers.
 - They are working on the logistics of how to get the information to the Treatment Providers. Providers should begin receiving referrals from P&P at any time.
 - C. Treatment for Inmates
 - Aimee was only able to find one state that offered inmate training. CA is currently wrapping up a study on the topic. They studied 400 probationers who

completed DV Training while inmates. It was indicated that those findings should be available soon. Aimee has asked to be notified when those results are available and will share with the committee at that time.

III. New Business

A. Batterer's Intervention Standards

- This item is on hold pending further discussion of evaluation of existing treatment programs. Ellie inquired as to whether there would be funding to cover evaluation. Maureen mentioned that there could be money available for evaluation of treatment programs. The DVCC would need to request discretionary funds through the STOP grant however, at this time, this has not been identified as a priority in Delaware. We are currently on the first year of the three year grant cycle. Ellie noted that this money can be used for evaluation but not research. A document was circulated noting the difference between the two. Maureen Monagle circulated a 1 page document outlining the distinctions between evaluations vs. research.
- If the DVCC were awarded a grant to fund research, there would need to be a solicitation for a qualified researcher. Ellie mentioned that we would need to do some preliminary research to determine how much a study like this would cost so that we could determine how much grant money to ask for. Blanche suggested Kirk Williams from the University of Delaware as a contact of someone who might be able to provide some assistance. Aimee will reach out to Kirk with some preliminary questions.
- There was discussion regarding a need to revise the standards. A parenting component needs to be added and the standards need to be organized in a more user-friendly way. Brendan suggested that Ellie take a look at the standards and offer suggestions for changes. Ellie agreed to begin the process and circulate to the group. Blanche agreed that the standards need revisions but thought that we might need to develop a working group to take a more in-depth look as to the contents of the standards. Aimee suggested that the committee have Ellie take a first look at the standards and make suggestions on things that can be fixed quickly. There is a need to have updated standards on the website which would include the changes that were previously approved by the Council with regards to training. The committee was in an agreement and will discuss if we need to do an in-depth review of the standards at a later time.

B. Evaluating Batterer's Intervention Programs

i. DVCC Sponsored Education Credits for Treatment Providers

- It has been reported by the Treatment providers that it is difficult to find training opportunities that are "offender centered". Ellie thought that since the Intervention Standards require the treatment providers to get offender centered training both for their initial certification and on-going training, it would be nice if the DVCC could assist with providing those trainings. Blanche thought it would be great to offer training in-state. She explained that Turning Point often has to send treatment providers out of state for trainings which is very costly. She indicated that a full or half day training would be very helpful. The Committee agreed that we would like to pursue this further. Ellie suggested that perhaps we could partner with another agency's existing training, like the DCADV's Annual Retreat, in an effort to minimize costs. Blanche stated that even if the Treatment providers had to pay it would still be helpful as it would eliminate travel costs associated with going to training out of state. Aimee agreed to reach out to the Treatment Providers not in attendance for their thoughts. Ellie will contact the DCADV to inquire as to the possibility of partnering with them to do something as part of the Annual Retreat.
- The DVCC staff will reach out to the Treatment Programs for thoughts on topics and will put together a proposal for a half day training looking at the best time to host a half day program the first year.

C. BISC-MI 10th Anniversary Conference (April 2015)

- The Batterer's Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan will be hosting an international Batterer's Treatment Summit in Grand Rapids Michigan from April 15-17. There will be a highly distinguished panel of presenters including, Michael Paynor, Tony Porter, Kim Gandy, David Mandel, etc. Blanche thought this would be a very worthwhile conference and hopes to send someone from Turning Point. The Treatment Committee would like to send a representative of the DVCC as they will have a different perspective than therapists. Topics of particular interest are Evaluating Treatment Programs and Recent Research on the Effectiveness of Treatment Programs. Ellie will look into possible funding to send a DVCC representative.

D. Treatment Referrals

- Blanche noted that there has been a huge drop in the number of referrals to Turning Point. If we start capturing more data, we will be able to identify these trends.

IV. Public Comment: None

V. Future meeting Dates

- A. Wednesday, June 10th
- B. Wednesday, September 9th
- C. Wednesday, December 9th

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